

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PA-01

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AF/P:MR. POPE - DRAFT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, CG

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON GELB ARTICLE

1. WE ARE CABLING BY SEPTTEL THE TEXTS OF NOV 7 NY TIMES ARTICLE BY LESLIE GELB ENTITLED, 'US AIDES TELL SENATORS OF ARMS AID TO ANGOLANS' AND TEXT OF QUESTION AND ANSWER ON ARTICLE AT NOVEMBER 7 DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING.

2. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE ON US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE WAS PREPARED FOR USE AT NOV. 7 BRIEFING, BUT NO QUESTION ON SUBJECT WAS ASKED:

"Q: WHY IS THE ADMINISTRATION ASKING FOR A DOLS 39.4 MILLION IN MILITARY AID TO ZAIRE, WHEN THE PROGRAM WAS ONLY DOLS 3.8 MILLION LAST YEAR?

A: WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR DOLS 39.4 MILLION IN MILITARY
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AID. OUR MILITARY AID REQUEST IS FOR DOLS 19 MILLION IN

FMS CREDITS AND DOLS 400,000 IN GRANT TRAINING FUNDS.

WE ARE ALSO REQUESTING A DOLS 20 MILLION COMMODITY IMPORT LOAN, UNDER SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE, TO HELP SEE ZAIRE THROUGH A SEVERE BUT TEMPORARY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION BROUGHT ON LARGELY BY THE SHARP FALL IN COPPER

PRICES, WHICH HAS REDUCED ZAIRE'S EARNINGS BY A THIRD. THE COUNTRY'S LONGER-RANGE PROSPECTS ARE BRIGHT, BUT IT HAS A SERIOUS SHORT-TERM PROBLEM.

OUR DOLS 20 MILLION LOAN WOULD FINANCE CIVILIAN IMPORTS, SUCH AS FERTILIZER, AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT, MACHINERY.

Q: WHY THE INCREASE IN FMS CREDITS FROM DOLS 3.5 MILLION TO DOLS 19 MILLION?

A: THIS WILL HELP ZAIRE TO MODERNIZE ITS FORCES AND MEET LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS IN VIEW OF INCREASED THREATS TO ITS SECURITY, INCLUDING THAT POSED BY THE INSTABILITY IN ANGOLA, WITH WHICH ZAIRE SHARES A LONG BORDER AND WHERE THE SOVIET UNION IS PROVIDING ARMS ON A MASSIVE SCALE TO A GROUP WHICH IS HOSTILE TO ZAIRE. THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS OF CONTINUING SHIPMENTS OF SOVIET ARMS INTO CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE.

I MIGHT NOTE IN THIS REGARD THAT JUST LAST WEEK THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT REPORTED THAT IT HAD RECEIVED A THREATENING DEMARCHE FROM THE SOVIET GOVT CONCERNING ANGOLA."

3. EMBASSY MAY DRAW UPON ABOVE GUIDANCE, AS APPROPRIATE, IN DISCUSSION WITH GOZ. KISSINGER

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